

Ships, Saints, and Mariners

*A Maritime Encyclopedia
of Mormon Migration
1830-1890*

by

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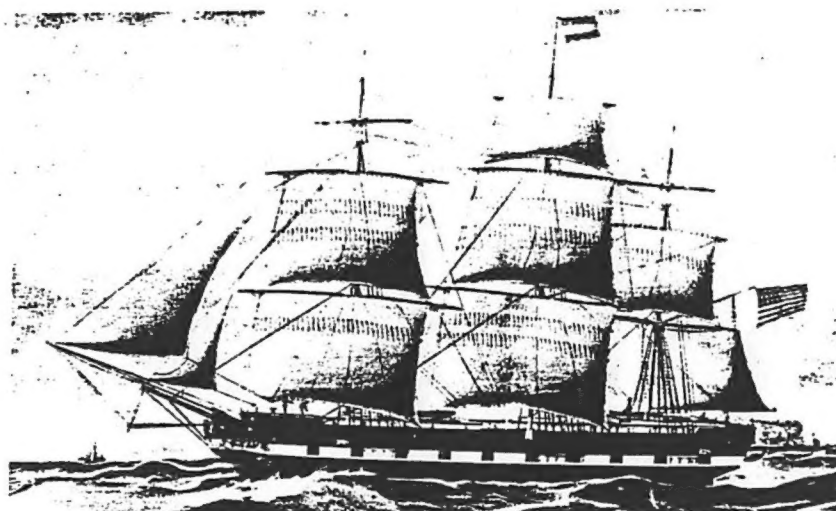
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Hope. Courtesy The Peabody Museum of Salem.

HORIZON

Ship: 1775 tons: 220' x 42' x 21'
Built: 1854 at Ellsworth, Maine

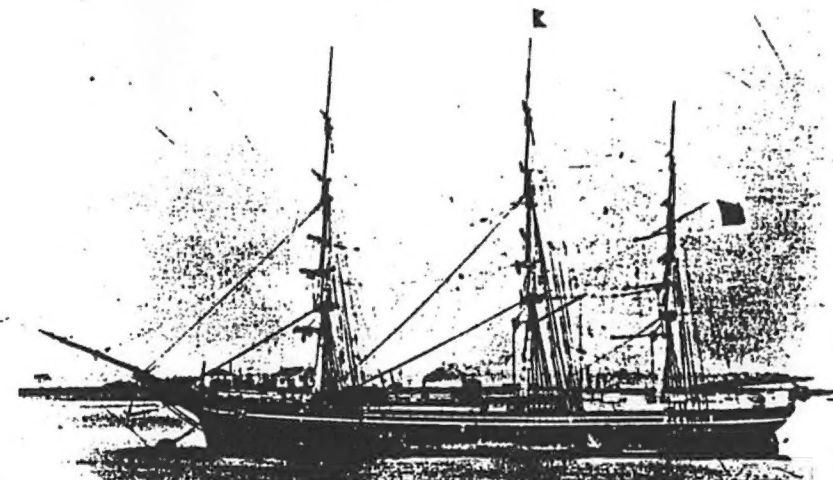
Elder Edward Martin presided over 856 Mormon emigrants who sailed from Liverpool 25 May 1856 in the square-rigger *Horizon* of Boston. He was assisted by Elders Jesse Haven and George P. Waugh. The vessel was commanded by Captain William Reed of Chelsea, Massachusetts, a mariner of considerable experience and part-owner of the vessel. In 1848 he seems to have skippered the 335-ton bark *Lucy Elizabeth* and in 1853 the 983-ton ship *Northampton*. During the crossing, Patience Loader, a young girl, recorded that for some days a large shark followed the ship, causing her anxiety. After a twenty-six-day passage the *Horizon* arrived at Boston on 20 June. The emigrants then traveled by rail to Iowa City. Since most of the Saints were poor—635 having been financed by the Perpetual Emigrating Fund—they formed a handcart company that nearly perished on the winter trek to Utah. In this tragic episode many died before help from Great Salt Lake City reached them.

In her 1859 registration the *Horizon's* tonnage was calculated at 1666 tons. A large ship for her time, this three-master had three decks, a square stern, and a figurehead. In 1859 the ship was sold to foreigners.

HUDSON

Ship: 1618 tons: 208' x 41' x 29'
Built: 1863 by J. A. and D. D. Westervelt at New York City, New York

Captain Isaiah Pratt, a mariner who had as early as 1852 skippered the ship *Margaret Evans* in the Black X Line, was in command of the large packet ship *Hudson*



Hudson. Courtesy The Mariners Museum, Newport News, Virginia.

on both of her voyages with Mormon emigrants. On 3 June 1864 the first passage began at London with 863 Saints from the British Isles, Switzerland, Germany, and Holland. Elder John M. Kay presided over the emigrant company. His counselors were George Halliday, John L. Smith, and Matthew McCune. Other returning missionaries were Elders Louis A. Bertrand, Samuel Neslen, and Thomas O. King. The crossing was unusually slow—forty-six days, but the "kindness of Capt. Pratt did much to alleviate the fatigue of the journey." Measles broke out among the children, and nine died and were buried at sea. Soon after landing, another child died at Castle Garden. One woman from Switzerland also died. There were three births. The vessel arrived at New York on 19 July. Three years later—1 June 1867—the *Hudson* sailed from London with twenty Saints aboard, arriving on 19 July after a forty-eight-day passage.

This full-rigged packet had three decks, a round stern and tuck, and a billethead. Captain Pratt was listed as owner in 1868. Her registration was surrendered 30 September 1878 because the vessel had been sunk sometime earlier.

HUMBOLDT

Ship: 789 tons: 157' x 32' x 22'
Built: 1853 by A. Meyer at Lübeck (Germany)

A German ship, the *Humboldt* carried two companies of Scandinavian Mormons to America. In each case, the emigrants assembled at Hamburg and from that port embarked on this square-rigger. Shipmaster was Captain H. D. Boysen, who commanded the vessel from 1858 to 1866.

The first company of 323 Saints departed on 9 April 1862 under the leadership of Elder Hans Christian Hansen, a returning missionary. The voyage was described as successful, although fourteen died at sea and on the land journey to Florence,